

has met the challenges of this difficult economic climate head on and continues to grow and thrive.

Bull Moose is a small retail chain originally founded in Brunswick, ME. The company initially focused on providing its customers solely with music but has now branched out into many forms of entertainment and media, including movies, games, and books. Its founder and president, Brett Wickard, characterizes Bull Moose as selling "inexpensive fun stuff." Twenty years ago, when Mr. Wickard was a college student at Brunswick's Bowdoin College, the local record store closed down. Now many of us would have just found another place to buy cassettes or records, but this young Bowdoin entrepreneur had a different idea. With just \$7,000 of his own money and a small loan, Brett Wickard launched Bull Moose Music in the summer of 1989, and a truly homegrown business success story began. Mr. Wickard arranged his course schedule around his new store hours and had friends work in the store while he was in class.

The Bull Moose business plan began by looking up record distributors in the Yellow Pages and ordering one album by every artist and band that had released at least two albums. The thought process was if you made a second album, you must be a good band. In the first summer, Bull Moose Music had sales of barely \$100 a day, and Brett was forced to use his credit card as a tool to survive. But with dedication and perseverance, Bull Moose has grown from these humble beginnings in Brunswick to include 10 stores in both Maine and New Hampshire with over 100 employees. To keep up with the added demand, the company has now produced its own software to analyze which albums and artists it should carry based on the purchasing history of each of the store's customers. Mr. Wickard actually designed the Bull Moose purchasing software as his senior project while still a Bowdoin student—quite an upgrade from scouring the Yellow Pages!

Bull Moose recently celebrated its 20th anniversary and is on track to have its best year ever despite the current recession. Nevertheless, it continues to face the challenges confronting many small businesses. Beyond the severity of the economic downturn, large chain stores make it increasingly difficult to compete, and digital downloads of music have reduced the number of customers buying music in stores. As a result of these overwhelming roadblocks, many small businesses have been forced to cut staff and eliminate bonuses. In contrast, Bull Moose has tripled Christmas bonuses and continues to hire more staff, including a location in Bangor, ME, that has tripled in size. Mr. Wickard credits Bull Moose's commitment to customer service and convenience to their unprecedented success and growth.

It is indeed refreshing to see a superb small business overcome the many ob-

stacles it faces in today's market. Stories such as this should renew our focus to help small entrepreneurs succeed because as small businesses like Bull Moose continue to grow, they provide a substantial positive impact on the health of the local community and our overall economy. My home State of Maine has benefited greatly from Bull Moose's success, and I wish Mr. Wickard and everyone at Bull Moose continued success for years to come.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:37 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3695. An act to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for other purposes.

At 12:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2314. An act to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

4532. An act to provide for permanent extension of the attorney fee withholding procedures under title II of the Social Security Act to title XVI of such Act, and to provide for permanent extension of such procedures under titles II and XVI of such Act to qualified non-attorney representatives.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3695. An act to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Laminarin; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8812-1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trichoderma gamsii strain ICC 080; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8799-4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4798. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nicosulfuron; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL No. 8812-5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4799. A communication from the Administrator of the National Organic Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Organic Program; Access to Pasture (Livestock)" ((Docket No. AMS-TM-06-0198)(RIN0581-AC57)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4800. A communication from the Administrator of the Research and Promotion Branch, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Processed Raspberry Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Referendum Procedures" ((Docket Nos. AMS-FV-07-0077; FV-07-705-FR)(RIN0581-AC79)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 23, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4801. A communication from the Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of